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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

August 29, 2001

The Honorable Ann Veneman
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue SW, # 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madame Secretary:

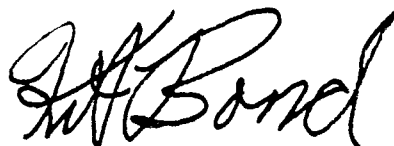
On May 9, 2001, we wrote you concerning training requirements for acquisition personnel at the Department of Agriculture. This letter requested a response by June 15, 2001. To date, unfortunately, we have not received a reply from your Department.

This inquiry into the state of civilian agency acquisition training is one we have undertaken as part of our oversight responsibilities. Under Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is charged with investigating "all problems of American small business enterprises." Insufficient understanding of small business procurement programs by contracting staff, we believe, is one such problem that impedes small business access to Federal contracting opportunities.

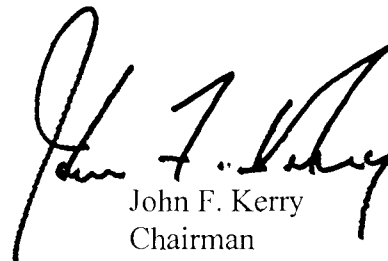
Accordingly, we are sending this reminder, again asking that you respond to our previous letter. For your convenience, this letter (including the questions) is attached. We would appreciate your response to each of the specific questions posed.

We look forward to your detailed response, and ask that you respond by September 30, 2001. If you have questions on this matter, the staff contacts are Cordell Smith (for Senator Bond) and John DaSilva (for Senator Kerry). Both may be reached at the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship at (202)224- .

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member



John F. Kerry
Chairman